

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Bereuter, you mentioned LB 81 and it is my bill and Senator Reutzel has also co-sponsored that bill with me. You referred to the fact that perhaps that bill could be augmented. The bill proposed would raise about a million dollars and it is a user fee type bill which I think is a good approach. Do you have any idea, would you want to make a suggestion as to how much we could supplement that bill to take the place of this bill here which we're going to discuss right now.

SENATOR BEREUTER: I really don't. I feel that one million doesn't go very far and I commend you and Senator Reutzel in bringing the bill. In fact, I was interested in introducing it myself. I'd rely on your judgement and I really think it's just how fast we wish to move on capital construction. Certainly I think your bill is appropriate, but it's a minimum step forward and I'd be in favor of augmenting it, if we do not pass this bill.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Do you think Senator Bereuter that we could perhaps, I'm not sure about this either, but I do believe that the Game and Parks have demonstrated some need for additional funds. Has the Budget Committee recommended additional funding this year for Game and Parks?

SENATOR BEREUTER: We have not made our decision on the Game and Parks Commission as yet. I think that in listening to the people around me on the committee, there was no thought in cutting back to any requests coming to us. It's a matter of perhaps seeing what happens on these two bills before we can really commit ourselves to further funds.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you Senator Bereuter. Senator Reutzel you mentioned earlier the increase in use of the state parks. Can you tell us about future projections for use of state parks and what will happen do you think in the next five years?

SENATOR REUTZEL: Well, Senator Schmit, it's pretty obvious when we have a one million jump in visitation of our park system from '73 to '75, it's pretty obvious what the trend is. We've got a situation now because of the higher prices in gasoline and inflation that people are staying closer to home and they're using the state parks system. They're not driving to Colorado as much; they're not going to California and the surrounding states. They're using our own state parks system which is in vast disrepair. So the increase is just going to keep on rising. We're going to have, I can't give you specific number, but we have a million increase in a two year period and as the gasoline prices go higher we're going to continue this increase.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Do you think Senator Reutzel that the approach that you and I have adopted with LB 81 and a park user fee will discourage the use of parks by any individuals we have talked about?

SENATOR REUTZEL: There's a certain amount of people who aren't going to use the parks system because of an entry fee, but that was taken into effect of the bill and we can't get around that. They've been using the park system free all these years and now if they're going to be paying an entry fee, there's going to be a certain amount. That was taken into consideration when the bill was drawn up.